

AMENDMENTS TO THE ABSTRACT:

Please replace the Abstract with the following amended Abstract:

A communication apparatus ~~according to the present invention~~ detects the trailing edge of the received data₁ and[,] with the detection of the trailing edge₁ the apparatus[,] acknowledges the reception of the start bit in the received data. The bit level of the start bit is monitored to examine whether or not the bit level is at a predetermined bit level. If any change is detected, a signal indicating occurrence of a start-bit-detection error is output to the outside.